

DOCKET NO.: BELL-0121/01127
Application No.: 09/891,638
Office Action Dated: October 28, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the indicated amendments and following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1-24 have been rejected. Claims 1, 11, 15 and 22 are independent claims from which claims 2-10, 12-14, 16-21 and 23-24 respectively depend. Claims 1, 11 and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found on page 2, lines 6-30 and elsewhere in the application as originally filed.

Applicant thanks the Examiners for the telephone interview held on December 16, 2004. Attached herewith is an Interview Summary.

Claims 1-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Brennan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,329,578). It is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth below.

Brennan does not disclose or suggest at least the italicized features of Applicant's amended claim 1. Applicant's claim 1 recites:

A method for blocking a call to a called line selected by a calling party, said calling party having a calling line identification number, said method comprising:

receiving an *outgoing* communication directed to a called line from a calling line, said calling line *associated with a subscriber to an outgoing call blocking service*;

obtaining a calling line identification number for said communication;

obtaining a called line identification number for said communication;

looking for said calling line identification number in a data store to determine data associated with said calling line identification number concerning calls from the calling line to a called line which are to be blocked; and

terminating the call if the data indicates that the call is to be blocked.

(emphasis added).

Brennan is directed to an *incoming* call management system in which a personal agent associated with a particular subscriber handles the incoming call based on who is calling, when the call is made and the urgency of the call. Brennan does not disclose or suggest at least the italicized features of Applicant's amended claim 1.

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Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable as are claims 2-10 which depend therefrom and respectfully request the withdrawal of the 102 rejection of these claims.

As Applicant's independent claims 11, 15 and 22 include analogous features, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11, 15 and 22 are also patentable as are the claims which depend therefrom and respectfully request the withdrawal of the 102 rejection of these claims.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Date: January 27, 2005

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